

78m, 78n, 78o, 78p, 78q, 78s, 78u-5, 78w, 78x, 78ll(d), 78mm, 79q, 79t, 80a-20, 80a-23, 80a-29, 80a-37, 80b-3, 80b-4 and 80b-11, unless otherwise noted.

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2. Section 240.12f-2 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 240.12f-2 Extending unlisted trading privileges to a security that is the subject of an initial public offering.

(a) *General Provision.*—A national securities exchange may extend unlisted trading privileges to a subject security when at least one transaction in the subject security has been effected on the national securities exchange upon which the security is listed and the transaction has been reported pursuant to an effective transaction reporting plan, as defined in § 240.11Aa3-1.

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Dated: December 9, 1999.

By the Commission.

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32472 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 199

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On Wednesday, November 24, 1999, (64 FR 66126), the Department of Defense published a proposed rule on TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan. This document is published to extend the public comment period.

DATES: Comment period has been extended until January 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address comment concerning the proposed rule to TRICARE Management Activity/Special Contract Operations Branch, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9043.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Col. Brian Grassi, 303-676-3496.

Dated: December 9, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 99-32305 Filed 12-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

45 CFR Parts 160 through 164

RIN 0991-AB08

Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period on a proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on November 3, 1999 (64 FR 59918). The original date that the comment period would end was January 3, 2000. That date will now be extended until February 17, 2000.

In that rule, we propose standards to protect the privacy of individually identifiable health information maintained or transmitted in connection with certain administrative and financial transactions. The proposed rules, which would apply to health plans, health care clearinghouses, and certain health care providers, proposed standards with respect to the rights individuals who are the subject of this information should have, procedures for the exercise of those rights, and the authorized and required uses and disclosures of this information.

The use of these standards would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public and private health programs and health care services by providing enhanced protections for individually identifiable health information. These protections would begin to address growing public concerns that advances in electronic technology in the health care industry are resulting, or may result, in a substantial erosion of the privacy surrounding individually identifiable health information maintained by health care providers, health plans and their administrative contractors. This rule would implement the privacy requirement of the Administrative Simplification subtitle of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

DATES: The comment period is extended to no later than 5 p.m. on February 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments at the following web site: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/>.

Mail comments (1 original, 3 copies, and, if possible, a floppy disk) to the following address: U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Attention: Privacy-P, Room G-322A, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (1 original, 3 copies, and, if possible, a floppy disk) to the following address: Room 442E, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further information on comment procedures, availability of copies of this document and electronic access to this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roxanne Gibson (202) 260-5083.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Reason for extension, comment procedures, availability of copies, and electronic access.

Reason for extension: We originally proposed a 60-day period for public comment of this proposed rule. The original comment period would have closed on January 3, 2000. Because of the scope of the proposed rule, the significant implications for the health care system and the substantial public interest in the proposed rule, we believe that additional time would allow for more informative and thoughtful comments. Therefore, we are extending the comment period until February 15, 2000.

Comment procedures: All comments should include the full name, address and telephone number of the sender or a knowledgeable point of contact. Written comments should include 1 original and 3 copies. If possible, please send an electronic version of the comments on a 3½ inch DOS format floppy disk in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) (preferred) HTML, ASCII text, or popular word processor format (Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect).

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by electronic mail or facsimile (FAX) transmission, and all comments and content are to be limited to the 8.5 wide by 11.0 high vertical (also referred to as "portrait") page orientation. Additionally, it is requested that if identical/duplicate comment submissions are submitted both electronically and in paper form that each submission clearly indicate that it is a duplicate submission. In each comment, please specify the section of this proposed rule to which the comment applies.

Comments received in a timely fashion will be available for public

inspection, as they are received, generally beginning approximately three weeks after publication of a document in Room 442E of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201 on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: 202-260-5083).

After the close of the comment period, comments submitted electronically and written comments that we are technically able to convert will be posted on the Administrative Simplification web site (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/>).

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Note to reader: This proposed rule is one of several proposed rules that are being published to implement the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. We propose to establish a new 45 CFR subchapter C, Parts 160 through 164. Part 160 will consist of general provisions, Part 162 will consist of the various Administrative Simplification regulations relating to transactions and identifiers, and Part 164 will consist of the regulations implementing the security and privacy requirements of the legislation. Proposed Part 160, consisting of two subparts (Subpart A—General Provisions, and Subpart B—Preemption of State Law) will be exactly the same in each rule, unless we add new sections or definitions to incorporate additional general information in the later rules.

Dated: December 10, 1999.

Donna Shalala,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32484 Filed 12-10-99; 3:23 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[Docket No. 99120-332-9332-01; I.D. 110499B]

RIN 0648-AM79

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Pelagic Longline Management

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to prohibit pelagic longline fishing at certain times and in certain areas within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of the Southeastern United States and in the Gulf of Mexico. This proposed rule is necessary to address pelagic longline bycatch and incidental catch of overfished and protected species. The intent of the proposed action is to reduce that bycatch and incidental catch by pelagic longline fishermen who target highly migratory species (HMS). **DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time, on February 11, 2000. Public hearings on this proposed rule will be held in January and February, 2000. Times for the public hearings will be specified in a separate document in the **Federal Register** to be published at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted to Rebecca Lent, Chief, HMS Division (SF/1), Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 301-713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. For copies of the draft Technical Memorandum and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (DSEIS/RIR/IRFA), contact Jill Stevenson at 301-713-2347 or write to Rebecca Lent. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jill Stevenson at 301-713-2347, fax 301-713-1917, e-mail jill.stevenson@noaa.gov; or Buck Sutter at 727-570-5447, fax 727-570-5364, e-mail buck.sutter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic swordfish and tuna fisheries

are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). The Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (HMS FMP) is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635. The Atlantic pelagic longline fishery is also subject to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and the International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries because of documented interactions with sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds.

Pelagic Longline Fishery

Pelagic longline gear is the dominant commercial fishing gear used by U.S. fishermen in the Atlantic Ocean to target highly migratory species. The gear consists of a mainline, often many miles in length, suspended in the water column by floats and from which baited hooks are attached on leaders (gangions). Though not completely selective, longline gear can be modified (e.g., gear configuration, hook depth, timing of sets) to target preferentially yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, or swordfish.

Observer data and vessel logbooks indicate that pelagic longline fishing for Atlantic swordfish and tunas results in catch of non-target finfish species (including bluefin tuna, billfish, and undersized swordfish) and protected species, including endangered sea turtles. Also, this fishing gear incidentally hooks marine mammals and sea birds during tuna and swordfish operations. The bycatch of animals that are hooked but not retained due to economic or regulatory factors contributes to overall fishing mortality. Such bycatch mortality may significantly impair rebuilding of overfished finfish stocks or the recovery of protected species.

Bycatch Reduction Strategy

Atlantic blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, bluefin tuna, and swordfish are considered overfished. In the HMS FMP and Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Billfish FMP (Billfish Amendment), NMFS adopted a strategy for rebuilding these stocks through international cooperation at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This strategy primarily involves reducing fishing mortality through the negotiation of country-specific catch quotas according to rebuilding schedules. However, the